CHARLTON COMICS
BILLY THE KID
NO. 80 SEPT CDC
15¢
TERRIFYING CONDITIONS OF
BRIDE of SATAN
COMPLETE STORY IN THIS ISSUE!

PART 1

BRIDE OF SATAN

BILLY THE KID HAD AS MANY FRIENDS SOUTH OF THE BORDER AS HE DID IN THE U.S.A.! NOW, BILLY WAS RIDING SOUTH TOWARD SANGREMAS, A TINY VILLAGE ON THE SLOPE OF THE SIERRA MADRE MOUNTAINS... WHEN SUDDENLY THE HARD DRUMMING OF A RACING HORSE ECHOED OFF THE CLIFFS AND THEN BILLY THE KID SAW THAT THE RIDER HAD LOST CONTROL!

LET ME GO, YOU ANIMAL! I WILL NOT GO BACK!

SIMMER DOWN, CHIQUITA!

I'M SORRY, SENORITA... AT FIRST I DIDN'T RECOGNIZE YOU! I'M NOT TRYIN' TO TAKE YOU ANYWHERE... I JUST SAVED YORE LIFE!

BILLY THE KID

0367

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WHO'S AFTER YUH, SENORITA? BANDIDOS OR...?

MUCH WORSE, MI AMIGO! MY BROTHER'S *PISTOLEROS* PURSUE LIKE THE DEVIL'S HOUNDS!

FASTER, IDIOTAS! IF THAT STUPID WOMAN ANGERS SENOR ROJA, I WILL CHAIN HER IN THE DUNGEON BENEATH THE VILLA!

MARGUERITA DE RUIZ HAD JUST SWUNG DOWN FROM BILLY'S CAYUSE WHEN HER BROTHER LED HIS GUNSLINGERS DOWN THE SLOPE! THERE WAS NO TIME TO GET AWAY...

CHECK THAT BRONC, RUIZ... ONE OF US COULD GET STOMPED!

YOU MAY SUFFER A WORSE FATE, GRINGO! *PABLO! TAKE HIS GUN!*

SI, EXCELLENCIA!

DON'T COME NEAR ME, FRIEND! YOU'RE NOT TAKIN' MY IRON!

A GRINGO BLUFF!

I DON'T BLUFF!

BLAM!

KILL THE GRINGO!

BANG

BANG

IF THEY JUMP ME, RUIZ, YUH GET IT FIRST!

DO AS HE SAYS... IT IS THE NOTORIOUS GRINGO GUNMAN, THE MAN THEY CALL BILLY THE KID!

TAKE THAT CAYUSE, SENORITA! I'M GETTIN' YUH OUT OF HERE!

GRACIAS, AMIGO!

I HAVE FRIENDS IN SANGREMAS, SENORITA! I'LL HIDE YUH THERE!

I WILL NOT BE SAFE IN MEXICO! SENOR ROJA IS A DEVIL... HE WILL FIND ME THERE!

BUENAS DIAS, EL CHIVITO!

HOLA, MANUELO!

CANTINA

FITO LADRÓN

MAMA MARIA, THIS IS SENORITA DE RUIZ! WE HAVE MUCH HUNGER AND WISH NOT TO BE SEEN HERE!

SENORITA DE RUIZ, WELCOME! I HAVE ENCHILADAS AND CHILE ON THE STOVE!

THIS IS WHAT THE HIRED HANDS ON YOUR HACIENDA EAT, CHIQUITA! IT'S NOT AS FINE AS...

I LIKE IT VERY MUCH, CHIVITO! I AM SICK OF BEING PAMPERED AND WATCHED...

...SO THAT I CAN BE GIVEN BY MY GREEDY BROTHER TO ROJA WHO HAS MUCH EVIL IN HIS HEART! SENOR ROJA IS NOT A MAN ...HE IS A DEVIL!

DEVIL OR MAN, CHIQUITA, ROJA WON'T GET YUH IF...

I HAVE HER NOW, BONNEY. MAKE ONE MOVE AND YOU ARE DEAD!

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CONTINUED AFTER FOLLOWING PAGE

MEXICANS CALLED ROJA 'THE RED DEVIL' AND BILLY THE KID KNEW WHY...

YOU WEEL COME WEETH ME, BETROTHED! BONNEY, EEF YOU MOVE, I KEEL YOU!

I CAN WAIT FOR ANOTHER TIME, ROJA'!

SI, GRINGO... THEES I KNOW! YOU WEEL DIE WHEN WE MEET AGAIN... AND IT WEEL SOON BE, FOR YOU WEEL BRAVE DEATH FOR A WOMAN'S SMILE!

I'LL GO AFTER THEM AS SOON AS THEY LEAVE!

THUD!

YOU HAVE NO RIGHT, SENOR ROJA!

IN MEXICO, SENORITA, THE HEAD OF THE FAMILY HAS ALL THE RIGHTS!

YOUR BROTHER WEEL SEE THAT YOU MARRY ME, MY LOVE... IF HE DOES NOT, I WEEL RUIN HIM!

IN SANGREMAS, BILLY THE KID LAY UNCONSCIOUS SO LONG THE INHABITANTS BECAME ALARMED FOR THEIR GRINGO FRIEND UNTIL...

POBRECITO, OPEN YOUR EYES... POR DIOS, HE LIVES!

IF I DIED, ANGEL, I KNOW I'M IN HEAVEN!

CAN YOU STAND, CHIVITO? I WEEL HELP YOU TO WALK EEF...

I'D LOVE IT, MUCHACHA, BUT I'VE GOT TO GO AFTER THE GIRL!

MARGUERITA DE RUIZ IS BEING FORCED TO MARRY ROJA BY HER BROTHER! I'M GOING TO THE RUIZ HACIENDA... RAMON, SEND FOR THE RURALES AND TELL THEM WHAT IS HAPPENING!

THE DE RUIZ HACIENDA HAD BEEN BUILT WHEN A GREAT FAMILY ESTATE WAS A FORTRESS TO GUARD AGAINST ENEMIES!

ONCE THE GIRL IS MARRIED TO ME, THERE WILL BE NO MORE TROUBLE!

SI, SENOR ROJA...I WILL SUMMON THE OFFICIAL!

I WILL NEVER BE A WIFE TO YOU, ANIMAL! I DESPISE YOU!

DE RUIZ, YOU ASSURED ME YOU WOULD END THIS DEFIANCE! IF SHE PERSISTS I...

THERE ARE HUNDREDS OF PEONS ON THIS HACIENDA, FOOLISH GIRL! YOU STARTED THE SCHOOL FOR THE CHILDREN ...YOU MADE ME GIVE THEM BETTER HOMES... YOU GAINED MANY BENEFITS FOR THEM! IF YOU DO NOT WILLINGLY MARRY ROJA...

...I WILL RAZE THE SCHOOL-HOUSE, BREAK UP THE FAMILIES, I WILL MAKE THEIR LIVES ***MISERABLE***. ALL THIS IS WITHIN MY POWER!

Y-YOU ARE A MONSTER, LUIS!

WELL, BELOVED? DO YOU STILL DESPISE ME?

I...I SPOKE HASTILY, ALEJANDRO! I WILL MARRY YOU!

A MESSENGER LEFT THE HACIENDA, RACING FOR THE OFFICIAL WHO WOULD PERFORM THE CEREMONY...

GOT HIM!

SORRY TUH SHAKE YUH UP THISAWAY, AMIGO! WHAT'S YORE BUSINESS?

SENOR DE RUIZ WEESHES HEES SISTER TO MARRY THE RED DEVIL! I MUS' BRING THE ALCALDE BACK TO PERFORM THE SERVICE!

I'VE GOT TO HELP THE GIRL, HOMBRE! HOW CAN I GET INSIDE THE HACIENDA!

EVEN A MOUSE COULD NOT GET NEAR THE POOR GIRL, EL CHIVITO! NOTHING CAN SAVE HER!

HE HATES DE RUIZ...AND LIKE THE OTHERS AT THE HACIENDA, HE LOVES MARGUERITA DE RUIZ! IF THERE WAS AN EASY WAY TO GET PAST THE GUARDS, HE WOULD HAVE TOLD ME!

THIS SIDE SEEMS TO BE UNGUARDED! IF I CAN REACH THE WALL, I...

PEEIING!

KRAP

I CAN'T HELP THE GIRL IF I GET A SLUG IN THE HEAD! GOT TO REACH HER SOME OTHER WAY!

BING!

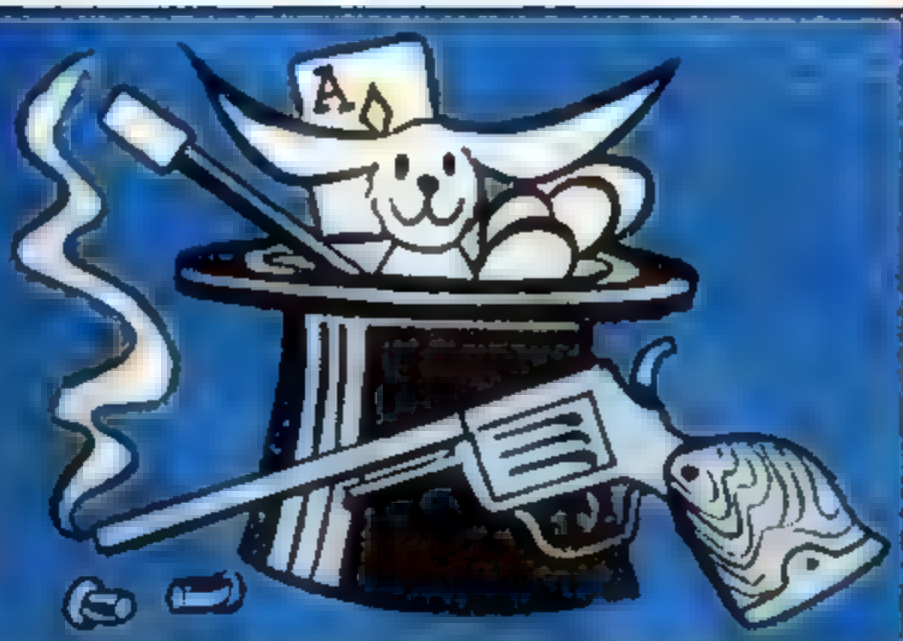
THERE WASN'T MUCH TIME... AT FIRST IT LOOKED HOPELESS UNTIL HE THOUGHT AWHILE AND THEN...

THEY'RE COMIN'

SORRY, HOMBRE...

END PART 1

MALLOY THE Magic MEDICINE MAN



"I have here a voucher on the U. S. Treasury for the sum of two thousand dollars payable to your order," said General Thomas Cook. "If you succeed, you really are a hero. We must be surely desperate to try this idea on the Indians. Bear in mind that Chief Quanta Marker has an advantage over all of us. He can think when he choses, like an Indian. Or like a white man. His mother had been captured in an Indian raid. So he is half white and half Indian."

"Don't forget you also have my draft for the sum of $3,000 on the third national bank of Chicago," interrupted Frank Daley. "In these hard times this is no small sum of money to raise from the settlers and ranchers. Because if you fail, there will be raids and bloodshed the like of which has not been known for twenty years in the territory."

"You sort of put me in a peculiar position," sighed John Malloy. "They still might be impressed by my magic and yet not want to sign the treaty. Have you taken that into consideration?"

"We have," admitted General Thomas Cook." But there is so much at stake that we must make this effort. Just put on as good a show as you did in Washington. That is all I ask of you."

Two days later, Chief Quanta Marker, six of his sub-chiefs, his medicine man, and a group of fifty well armed Indians arrived outside of Fort Dodge. They set up their camp outside the stockade. General Thomas Cooke and Colonel Howard Anderson greeted them.

"You said in your message to me that you have here a great Medicine Man. One who can do magic and will show it to us. So bring him out here. We will sit and watch him."

John Malloy had appeared before the crowned heads in Europe. But now he felt much more nervous than on those occasions. He drew back the sleeves of his large black coat.

"You see my two bare hands," he began. "Now watch as I take eggs from the sky. I will give one of these eggs to six of you."

He opened his fingers to show nothing was concealed in his two hands. Then he reached upwards. When his hands came down there was an egg resting in the palm of each hand. He repeated this three times. He handed an egg one at a time to the Indians.

"Break them," he commanded. "And see what is inside."

This was done and each egg contained a twenty dollar gold piece.

"Can we keep this?" asked one of the Indians.

"My gift to you," was his answer.

"Now watch my finger shoot fire at the skies," he said next.

And from each of his finger came a flash of fire. There was no doubt that the Indians were impressed. For the next fifteen minutes he showed his various magic tricks. Then came the one that was to impress all of them. One of the army officers handed him a revolver. He took out all bullets except one. Which he showed to the Indians. This was replaced into one chamber. Then the gun was cocked. The officer stood about twenty feet from him. Took careful aim at the magician and pulled the trigger. It was quite evident he had aimed at the heart. But the magician did not fall to the ground. He merely walked around so that the Indians could observe he wasn't bleeding nor hurt in any manner. And then the Medicine Man of the tribe arose. He held a revolver in his right hand. Aimed directly at the heart of John Malloy.

"My gun has silver bullets in it," began the Medicine Man. "No magic can stop them. Now you die!"

Six times he cocked his revolver. Six times he fired. Yet the magician did not move an inch. In disgust the Medicine Man threw his gun to the ground.

"You are a true Medicine Man," he finally said. "We will not fight your people."

For two days and nights there was celebration. The peace pipe was smoked. The treaty was signed. And now the Indians were about to go back home. Chief Quanta Marker took John Malloy aside and spoke to him.

"We are going to make you our blood brother. You are a very clever man. I wanted the treaty signed. But not the sub-chiefs. You convinced them with your tricks. But you have a good brain in your head. You figured somebody would try to shoot you with real bullets. So you wore an iron shield under your coat."

BILLY THE KID PART 2 THE DEVIL WITHIN

EET EES EL CHIVITO!

UNGH!

THUD!

THUD!

YOU HAD YORE CHANCE TO PULL YORE GUN, HOMBRE! HOW COME YUH DIDN'T?

YOU WANT TO HELP THE SENORITA, CHIVITO... I WANT TO HELP HER TOO!

NOT A BAD FIT, AMIGO! DO I LOOK LIKE AN ALCALDE?

TAKE THE BOOK, CHIVITO! THEY EXPECT AN ALCALDE, WHEN YOU RIDE IN ON THE WAGON DRESSED LIKE THAT WITH THE BOOK, THEY WILL ACCEPT YOU!

GRACIAS, AMIGO! I WILL NOT REVEAL THAT YOU ASSISTED ME IN THIS MATTER!

DE RUIZ WILL KNOW, CHIVITO, SO YOU MUST NOT FAIL!

BOTH LUIS DE RUIZ AND ALEJANDRO ROJA HAD HAD DEALINGS WITH BONNEY BEFORE... BUT, NOW, DRESSED AS HE WAS, DRIVING THE ALCALDE'S BUCKBOARD, THEY DID NOT RECOGNIZE HIM!

WHERE ARE THE PEOPLE YOU WISH ME TO MARRY, SENOR DE RUIZ?

SENOR ROJA WILL WED MY SISTER, MARGUERITA DE RUIZ, SENOR ALCALDE.

YOU MUST NOT WED THIS FIEND, SENORITA! NOT EVEN TO SAVE THOSE WHO LOVE YOU!

I DO WHAT MY HEART TELLS ME TO DO, PEPITA. PUT FEAR FROM YOUR HEART AS I HAVE DONE!

THEY ARE WAITING FOR THE BRIDE IN THE GREAT HALL!

HALF HIS LIFE HAD BEEN SPENT SOUTH OF THE BORDER AND BILLY THE KID SPOKE FLUENT SPANISH! NOW, KEEPING HIS HAT ON EVEN INSIDE THE GREAT HALL, HE WAS NOT QUESTIONED UNTIL...

WE ARE GATHERED TO JOIN IN MARRIAGE ALEJANDRO ROJA AND MARGUERITE DE RUIZ!

REMOVE YOUR HAT, ALCALDE!

SI, SENOR ROJA ...I REMOVE IT AT YOUR REQUEST!

ROJA, IT... IT IS THE GRINGO TROUBLEMAKER

THERE WILL BE NO QUESTIONS ASKED IF I KILL YOU HERE, GRINGO!

NO!

RUN, CHIVITO!

THUD!

I WI... UNGH!

COME ON, CHIQUITA!

CRACK!

GET US OUT, CHIQUITA!

YOU FOOLS, YO...

SOCK!

HELP THE SENORITA AND EL CHIVITO!

BLAM!

BANG!

KRAK!

A THOUSAND PESOS TO THE MAN WHO KILLS THE GRINGO!

AIM YOUR SHOTS... MAKE SURE HE DOES NOT GET AWAY... WE WILL SHARE THE REWARD!

STAY DOWN, MUCHACHA!

PEING!

PEING!

PEING!

PEING!

BANG!

BANG!

GOT ANOTHER... BUT I MISSED THE RED DEVIL!

BANG!

BANG!

THIS WAY, CHIVITO!

DON'T STOP, BILLY!

GOT TO SLOW THEM DOWN, CHIQUITA!

SIXGUN'S EMPTY!

CLICK!

PEIN

GIVE UP, BONNEY ...WE WILL BE MERCIFUL!

YEAH, DE RUIZ... I KNOW!

CRASH!

THEY'RE NOT COMING YET, CHIVITO! I AM READY NOW...

I WILL HELP YOU TO FIGHT, MI AMIGO. COME... WE'LL TRY TO REACH THE HORSES BY THE BACK DOOR!

I DON'T WANT TO GET AWAY NOW, MARGUERITA.

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GO OUT THIS WAY! SPEAK TO THE SEGUNDO WHO IS YOUR FRIEND... TELL HIM TO ARM HIS LOYAL MEN TO FIGHT YOUR BROTHER AND ROJA!

SI, CHIVITO...THIS IS BETTER THAN RUNNING AWAY!

HAVE THE HACIENDA CORDONED OFF, DE RUIZ! IF THIS MAN ESCAPES I WILL STRIP YOU OF YOUR POSSESSIONS!

HE IS AS GOOD AS DEAD NOW, SENOR!

A SHOOT-OUT WOULD MEAN DEATH FOR MANY MEN... ONE OF WHOM WOULD ALMOST CERTAINLY BE BILLY THE KID! HE NEEDED OTHER WEAPONS ...AND HE FOUND THEM!

THESE WILL DO FOR A STARTER, I RECKON!

PJJING!

THERE HE IS! THE THOUSAND PESOS IS AS GOOD AS MINE!

PEEING!

CRASH!

KEROSENE FIRES FLARED UP IN THE GREAT HALL...AND BILLY THE KID EXITED THROUGH A WINDOW!

GET MEN IN HERE... FORM A BUCKET BRIGADE! EXTINGUISH THE FIRE!

THERE HE GOES... AFTER HIM!

BANG!

GO IN WITH THE WATER BUCKETS... BUT USE THEM ON MY BROTHER AND THE RED DEVIL! COMPRENDIDO?

SI, SENORITA, I OBEY WEEH MUCH PLEASURE!

BUENO! EXTINGUISH THE FLAMES, THEN WE WILL FIND THE GRINGO!

AS THE FIRST WORKMAN EMPTIED HIS BUCKET, HE SWUNG AROUND AND...

ARE YOU LOCO, HOMBRE? ATTEND TO BUSINESS!

CRACK!

CRACK!

ROJA'S HIGHLY PAID GUNSLINGERS SUDDENLY STARTED THROWING LEAD BUT...

BANG!

BANG!

BANG!

NOBODY MOVE!

WE OBEY YOU, BONNEY!

YOU DON'T HAVE TO MARRY ANYONE NOW, PRINCESS!

I KNOW, CHIVITO... AND HE WHOM I WOULD MARRY WILL NEVER ASK ME TO BE HIS BRIDE.

WHAT HOMBRE WOULDN'T WANT TO MARRY A CHICK LIKE YOU, DOLL?

NEVER MIND, BILLY... HE DOES NOT SUSPECT HOW I FEEL! NOW, YOU MUST GO I KNOW...

...GOOD-BYE, MY VERY GOOD FRIEND...

END

BOUNTY HUNTER

STARRING SHAWN O'MEARA

SINCE I LAST TOOK PEN IN HAND, DEAR DAD, I'VE BEEN A BUSY LAD... ONE OF THE FIRST LESSONS YE POUNDED INTO ME WITH YER BLACKTHORN SHILLELAGH WHEN I WAS KNEE-H GH, WAS NEVER MAKE A SPORTIN' WAGER WI' A STRANGER! WHICH I DID, DEAR DAD...AND LOST NOT ONLY ME OWN SILVER BUT DEAR SHARON'S DOWRY MONEY AS WELL!

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LIKE ALWAYS, DAD, I'M GETTIN' THE CART BEFORE THE HORSE! I BETTER START THIS SAD TALE FROM THE BEGINN N' ...AND INDEED, THERE IS A SWEET START TO A B TTER TALE. FAIR GENTLE SHARON AND I WALKED FROM THE WIDOW ONLEY'S HOUSE THIS FINE NIGHT....

THE CHURCH DANCE TOMOR-ROW NIGHT, LOVELY SHARON, WILL BE ENRICHED BY YOUR BEAUTY. I WILL BE YOUR ESCORT, I HOPE AND PRAY!

YOU KISSED THE BLARNEY STONE, SHAWN....THE NICEST LIES TR,P FROM YOUR TONGUE EACH WITH THE GOLDEN SHINE OF TRUTH!

MAY ME TONGUE TURN T' STONE IN ME MOUTH IF I LIE TO YE, COLLEEN!

I STRODE HOME AS HAPPY AS YOU WERE THAT DAY IN COUNTY CORK WHEN THE ENGLISH TAX COLLECTOR FELL INTO THE HOG WALLOW!

BEGORRAH, I'M THE LUCKIEST BUCKO WEST O' DUBLIN!

LITTLE DID I KNOW, DAD! RIDIN' EASY TOWARD TOWN WAS A HANDSOME RASCAL....DRESSED LIKE AN ENGLISH LORD, RIDING A STRONG SADDLE HORSE, AND LEADIN' A HIGH-STEPPIN' STALUON!

THERE'S MONKEY JOE....HE HAS A SUCKER LINED UP..HE GAVE ME THE SIGNAL!

WHAT A FILLY!

I ASK YOUR PARDON, M'LADY, BUT WILL YOU RECOMMEND A HOSTELRY WHERE A WEARY TRAVELER MAY FIND A FRIENDLY GREETING, GOOD FOOD, AND A COMFORTABLE BED?

I...I'M SURE ANY GENTLEMAN WOULD BE GLAD TO DIRECT YOU, SIR! YOU MUST EXCUSE ME!

ALLOW ME TO PRESENT MYSELF, MADEMOISELLE. I AM FORSYTHE ROSS. THE YOUNGEST SON OF A NOBLE FAMILY!

Y-YOU'D BETTER LET ME PASS, SIR!

HERE NOW, YOU SCALAWAG! BE OFF WI' YE OR I'LL POUND SOME MANNERS INTO YOUR THICK SKULL!

BEAUTIFUL LADY, IF YOU KNOW THIS IRISH IDIOT, ADVISE HIM NOT TO PROVOKE ME OR I'LL THRASH HIM THOROUGHLY!

ENOUGH BLATHER! I'M GOING TO BATE YE PROPER!

TRY IT, BOGTROTTER.

THIS IS CALLED A "STRAIGHT RIGHT CROSS!" NEAT, EH?

OHHH, YOU BRUTE!

CHWW, THE **SHAME** OF IT

THAT **HURT!!**

NOW I SHALL DEMONSTRATE ANOTHER PUNCH ...

...THE LEFT **HOOK!**

UGH. C'MERE, LADDIE-BOY!

NOW, BUCKO...

...COOL OFF A BIT!

SPLASSH!

BEAUTIFUL, SHAWN!

YOU WERE ROUGH WITH HIM SHAWN, AND HIM A TOTAL STRANGER!

HE HAS A BEAUTIFUL RIGHT CROSS, LOVELY SHARON!

ALSO A BEAUTIFUL STALLION, AS STRONG AND PROUD AS A GALWAY HORSE!

I'VE SEEN THAT SCOUNDREL'S PRETTY FACE BEFORE SHARON...

TRUE TO ME IRISH HERITAGE, I STOPPED IN AT THE PUBLIC HOUSE (THEY CALL THEM SALOONS HERE, DAD).... ROSS WAS ALSO THERE!

AND I PLAN TO START RAISING SADDLE HORSES! I'VE GOT A GREAT STALLION, THE FASTEST HORSE IN THE WEST!

CAREFUL, MR. ROSS.... THE BOUNTY HUNTER YONDER RIDES A SWIFT MARE, HE THINKS IS THE FASTEST EVER FOALED!

MR. O'MEARA? DO YOU *MISTAKENLY* BELIEVE YOUR BEAST CAN RUN AS FAST AS MY NOBLE STALLION?

RUN ALONG, SIRRAH! I HAVE NO FURTHER QUARREL WI' YOU AN' NO WISH TA WIN YOUR SHILLINS!

AHA! YOU *DO* BELIEVE YOUR HORSE CAN OUTRACE MINE... AND YOU ARE FOOLISH ENOUGH TO WAGER GOOD HARD CASH? MUNK... SHOW THEM MY MONEY!

IF YE KEEP ON, SIRRAH, YE WILL BE A SADDENED MAN BEFORE NIGHTFALL!

THE BETS WERE SPEEDILY MADE, GOOD FATHER... ALL THE MONEY WHICH I HAD BEEN SAVING WAS WAGERED ON THE RACE... AS WELL AS MUCH OF THE WEALTH OF ME FELLOW CITIZENS!

WHERE'S YER CIVIC PRIDE, BOYS? MR. FORSYTHE ROSS HAS ANOTHER THOUSAND TO BET ON HIS STALLION!

THEY TRICKED US, I THINK... THEIR HORSE WILL BE SWIFT AS THE SUN! FORSYTHE ROSS IS A SUSPICIOUS MAN!

HUSH NOW, MRS. O'MALLEY! 'TIS ONLY ANOTHER HORSE AND THERE NEVER WUZ A HORSE YE COULDN'T SHOW YER DAINTY HEELS TA!

I JUST HEARD HOW YOU'VE WAGERED, SHAWN! TAKE SHAME FOR YOUR FOOLISHNESS! IF YOU WERE SAVING FOR SOME WORTHY PURPOSE, YOU'LL HAVE TO FORGET YOUR PLANS IF YOU LOSE!

CAN YE UNDERSTAND HOW I FELT, DAD? MY OWN BELOVED SHARON STOOD THERE REMINDING ME I WAS BETTING OUR FUTURE HAPPINESS ON THE SPEED OF MRS. O'MALLEY!

AYE, LASS...I UNDERSTAND THE FOOLISHNESS OF ME ACT NOW!

GOOD DAY TO YOU, MR. O'MEARA!

ARE YE READY TO RIDE, ENGLISHMAN?

ME? RIDE? EGAD, NO!

MY MAN WILL RIDE THE STALLION! UP YOU GO, MUNK!

A JOCKEY! A REGULAR FEATHERWEIGHT OF A JOCKEY! I WEIGH MORE THAN TWICE WHAT HE DOES!

YOU UNDERSTAND WE RACE A MILE NORTH TO A DEAD OAK TREE, CIRCLE IT, AN' START BACK! TAKE THE SHORTEST QUICKEST WAY TO IT AND BACK!

I'VE BEEN OVER THE COURSE FIFTY TIMES, IRISHMAN! I WON'T GET LOST!

READY, GENTS? GET SET...

JUST TO BE SURE I WIN THE CASH...

...I'LL HAVE AN ACE TO PLAY IN CASE BOUNTY HUNTER IS IN THE LEAD ON THE WAY BACK!

BLAM

CONTINUED AFTER FOLLOWING PAGE

IT'S TWO MILES... IF WE STAY ON THE TRAIL!

THE HORSE MUNK WAS RIDING, DAD, WAS A THOROUGHBRED RACER...AND THOUGH MRS. O'MALLEY WAS AS SWIFT, WELL, YOU KNOW HOW WEIGHT WILL TIRE A HORSE OVER A TWO-MILE COURSE!

COME ON, MRS. O'MALLEY! I KNOW YE'RE TIRED BUT DO YER VERY BEST!

UP AND OVER, MRS. O!

MADE IT, ME BONNIE BEAUTY!

NOW, DEAR DAD, WE'RE WELL AHEAD OF THAT RASCAL'S SWIFT STALLION....BUT I DIDN'T RECKON ON FORSYTHE ROSS'S SAVAGE GREED!

SO THAT'S YER ANSWER, IS IT, YE TREACHEROUS CAD!

BLAM

YE WON'T ESCAPE, ROSS! YE'LL BE PAID OFF IN THE PROPER COIN!

THE STRANGER WINS THE RACE!

C'MERE, ME BUCKO!

I WON THE RACE! HAND ME THE MONEY, MISTER!

I THOUGHT I KNEW YE, ENGLISHMAN! YER NAME IS FORSYTHE AN' THERE'S A BOUNTY ON YER HEAD WHICH I WILL BE PAID!

I'M CAUGHT, BUT....

...MUNK WON THE RACE AND WE KEEP ALL THE WAGERS! WITH IT, I'LL HIRE A GOOD LAWYER!

IS IT TRUE, SHAWN? WILL EVERYONE WHO BET LOSE HIS MONEY?

AYE, DAD... IT WAS TRUE! THE BETS HAD BEEN LOST BY MESELF AN' FRIENDS.... JUST A LITTLE LESS THAN.... YES.... $1,000! SO, THE ONLY THING AN HONEST IRISHMAN COULD DO WAS MAKE GOOD THE BETS TO ALL, INCLUDIN' MESELF.... AND THROW A PARTY WITH WHAT WAS LEFT!

P.S. WE'LL BE MARRIED SOON ENOUGH, ANYHOW, DAD, RIGHT?

END